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3. (Amended) The method of heat treatment of glass and natural materials of claim 1 characterized in that the glass or natural material to be melted or refined and/or refined contains an inert additive elected from the group comprising carbides, nitrides or borides in an amount from 1 to 100 g preferably 5 to 50 g per 1 kg of the glass or natural material.

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5. (Amended) The method of heat treatment glass and natural materials of claim 1 characterized in that the glass material comprises cullet of common waste glass of any kind or glass batches of all types or mixtures of cullet and glass and glass batches and the natural material comprises basalt, granite, marble, andesite, syenite, and other materials absorbing micro wave radiation.

6. (Amended) An apparatus for performing the method of claim 1 characterized in that it consists substantially of a micro wave furnace comprising an outer shell (8.2) provided with a cover (10) and an inner shell (8.1) and at least one micro wave generator (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4) with double emission and a total output from 0.1 to 1 kW per 1 kg of the processed glass or natural material arranged substantially in the intermediate space between the outer shell (8.2) and the inner shell (8.1) and a tank (2) disposed inside the inner shell (8.1).

8. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 6 characterized in that the furnace cover (10) is provided with at least one safety switch (9.1 and 9.2) and a fill neck (7) engaging a contactless infrared sensor (5) with a connection for transmitting its signal to a thermometer and controller (6) provided with a microprocessor for the microwave generator control.

9. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 6 characterized in that the tank (2) is provided with a side or bottom tapping point (13).

10. (Amended) Apparatus of claim 6 characterized in that the outer shell (8.2) is provided with transporting wheels.

A marked-up version is shown as Exhibit A.

Please add the Abstract, attached hereto on a separate sheet.

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, a cross-reference to related applications has been inserted in page 1. Claims 3, 5, 6, and 8-10 have been amended so that the multiple dependency of certain of the dependent claims have been removed to avoid the surcharge associated therewith, and an Abstract is being provided. No new